

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Notice of Non-Complaint Amendment mailed September 29, 2011. In the Notice of Non-Complaint Amendment, the Election/Restriction requirement of the previous Office Action was repeated.

In response to the Election/Restriction requirement, the Applicants repeat the election of First region, Subspecies 1 (the species which the Examiner has characterized as being drawn to “wherein the first region comprises metallic granules”), and of Second region, Subspecies 1 (the species which the Examiner has characterized as being drawn to “wherein the second region comprises a metallic powder”). To facilitate proceedings, these elections are made without traverse.

In the present amendment, claim 4 has been amended to correct a minor informality. Claims 10 and 11 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the claimed subject matter, which is directed to a non-elected species. Claims 3 and 5-7 were previously withdrawn as being directed to non-elected subspecies in a previous election/restriction requirement. In addition, new claims 29 and 30 have been added and also been withdrawn as being directed to non-elected subspecies.

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that all elected claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 9 and 12-28 are readable on the elected species. In addition, it is noted that previously presented dependent claims 27 and 28 expressly recite the features of the elected species.

Also, Applicants request that at this stage of the Examination, that independent claims 1 and 26 be examined exclusively in light of the elected embodiments. Upon allowance of independent claims 1 and 26, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner re-join and examine the withdrawn claims 3,

5-7, and 28-29, and further examine independent claims 1 and 26 in light of the non-elected embodiments.

EXAMINER INVITED TO TELEPHONE

The Examiner is herein invited to telephone the undersigned attorneys at the local Washington, D.C. area telephone number of 703/312-6600 for discussing any Examiner's Amendments or other suggested actions for accelerating prosecution and moving the present application to allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims listed above as presently being under consideration in the application are now in condition for allowance.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Docket No. 306.45851X00), and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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